

The MENTAL HEALTH LEGAL ADVISORS COMMITTEE presents:

MASTERING MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES IN JUVENILE COURT

Friday, June 2, 2006
MCLE

8:00 REGISTRATION AND BREAKFAST

8:30 WELCOME

8:45 **MENTAL HEALTH MEDICATIONS AND CHILDREN: WHY AND WHY NOT**

Dr. Prince will provide an overview of new and commonly used psychiatric medications for children with a focus on recent studies and research regarding dosages, combinations, uses, and side effects.

Jefferson B. Prince, M.D., Director of Child Psychiatry, Pediatric and Adult Psychopharmacology, North Shore Medical Center

10:30 **A VIEW FROM THE BENCH ON MENTAL HEALTH IN THE JUVENILE COURT**

Judge Erskine will discuss the importance of pursuing alternatives to powerful anti-psychotic medications and steps attorneys can take in Juvenile Court when medication orders are entered. She will also cover matters of legal inquiry in substituted judgment cases and least restrictive alternatives to commitment for children.

Honorable Carol A. Erskine, First Justice, Worcester County Juvenile Court

11:15 **CHILDREN MAKING COMPETENT DECISIONS: HOW TO KNOW AND WHAT TO DO**

Dr. Saleh will present the various factors that may affect a child's ability to "make adequately reasoned decisions" to direct the course of litigation and explain children's abilities to weigh alternatives and understand consequences according to their developmental stage. Ms. Storrow will discuss the CPCS Performance Standards for developing the child client's position, including when counsel must follow the client's expressed preference and when counsel may make a substituted judgment.

Fabian M. Saleh, M.D., Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, University of Massachusetts Memorial Medical Center/UMass Medical School; Medical Director, Sexual Disorders Clinic, Worcester

Dorothy Meyer Storrow, Esq., Greenfield, Massachusetts. Vice Chair, Committee for Public Counsel Services

12:30 LUNCH (ON YOUR OWN)

1:30 **PRACTICING LAW IN THE JUVENILE COURT: BRIDGING THE DISCONNECT BETWEEN DSS, THE GAL, THE PSYCHIATRIST, AND THE COURT**

This session will emphasize both practical and advanced legal skills necessary for zealous representation of your child client in the Juvenile Court, particularly in *Rogers* cases. Topics to be covered include interviewing, reviewing medical records, drafting appropriate orders for GALs, expert testimony, and testing issues.

Mary Rudolph Black, Esq., Gloucester, Massachusetts

Steven L. Wollman, Esq., Davids & Wollman, Swampscott, Massachusetts

3:30 **PSYCHO-SOCIAL TESTING: UNDERSTANDING AND USING PARENTING EVALUATIONS**

Dr. Ayoub, a developmental and licensed counseling psychologist, forensic mental health expert, and leader of research in prevention and intervention systems for young, at-risk children, will explain the process of completing parenting evaluations and assessments and discuss their strengths, weaknesses, scientific validity, and uses in the legal system.

Catherine C. Ayoub, Ed.D., Co-Director, Risk and Prevention Program, Harvard Graduate School of Education. Associate Professor of Psychology, Psychiatry Department, Harvard Medical School